

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING

A NUMBER OF THE 27 HEADS OF GOVERNMENT HERE FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING HAVE REACTED PUBLICLY TO FALL OF SAIGON WEDNESDAY, EXPRESSING FEELINGS FROM RELIEF TO CONCERN TO UNBRIDLED JOY.

TANZANIA'S NYERERE SAID THE "VICTORY OVER THE AMERICANS GIVES GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT TO US IN SOUTHERN AFRICA" IN THE FIGHT FOR MAJORITY RULE. "IN ALL OF HISTORY THERE HAS NEVER BEEN THAT KIND OF BOMBING BY A BIG POWER, THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY IN THE WORLD SINCE ADAM, OF A SMALL NATION.

"WE ARE GOING TO LEARN TO DO ONE PER CENT OF WHAT THEY DID IN INDO-CHINA. IF WE CAN DO DO ONE PERCENT OF WHAT THEY HAVE DONE, WE CAN FREE OURSELVES," NYERERE SAID.

ASKED IF IT WAS A VICTORY OVER THE UNITED STATES BY THE VIET-NAMESE OR A PROXY WAR FOUGHT FOR CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, NYERERE AGREED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD NO MUNITIONS INDUSTRY
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AND "THEY HAD NOT FOUGHT WITH BOWS AND ARROWS," BUT THEY HAD,

HE INSISTED, DEFEATED AMERICA. JAMAICA'S MANLEY IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON WITH A CABLE TO MADAME BINH.

"THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF JAMAICA WISH TO CONVEY FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF VIETNAM AND ALL THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM WHO HAVE BEEN FREED FROM THE AGONY OF A LONG STRUGGLE FOR THEIR FREEDOM AND THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION. JAMAICA EXTENDS ITS FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM," THE CABLE SAID.

INDIA'S MRS. GANDHI SAID THE WAR WAS A SERIOUS MISJUDGEMENT OF NATIONALISM; THAT NATIONALISM WAS SOMETHING THE WESTERN POWERS CONSISTENTLY MISUNDERSTOOD.

SINGAPORE'S KEW EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE IN CONTROL IN CAMBODIA, VIETNAM, "AND FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES, LAOS." HE WAS WORRIED, HE SAID, ABOUT THE TWO TO THREE BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF AMERICAN WEAPONS FLOATING AROUND, SAYING THESE COULD BE A SOURCE OF INCALCUABLE MISCHIEF NOT ONLY TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, BUT TO THE ENTIRE WORLD.

IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW, CANADA'S TRUDEAU SAID HE WAS NOT AT ALL PLEASED WITH THE DOWNFALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM. HE WAS CONCERNED, HE SAID, AT THE DEBACLE AND THE EFFECT IT MIGHT HAVE ON THE UNITED STATES. HINTING AT A POSSIBLE ISOLATIONIST TREND IN THE U.S., AS WELL AS A TILT IN THE BALANCE OF POWER, TRUDEAU GAVE PAUSE TO HIS INTERVIEWERS WITH HIS SOBER, THOUGHTFUL RESPONSES, NOTING THAT THE UNITED STATES IS "IMPORTANT TO ALL OF US AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE."
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